

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 6, 12 and 13, amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for deleting automatic delegate reply messages, comprising:
receiving a delegate reply message ~~provided~~ automatically generated and sent by a recipient terminal in response to an ~~sent~~ electronic mail message sent to at least one the recipient terminal;
opening the delegate reply message; and
deleting the opened delegate reply message; and
in response to deleting the opened delegate reply message:
identifying a mail message identifier of the opened delegate reply message; and
deleting other delegate reply messages provided in response to the same electronic mail message if the other delegate reply messages have the same mail message identifier as the opened delegate reply message.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein deleting the opened delegate reply message is performed in response to receiving a user command to close the opened delegate reply message. ~~further comprising:~~
~~deleting other delegate reply messages provided in response to the same sent electronic mail message if the other automatic delegate reply messages have substantially the same message identifier as the opened delegate reply message.~~
3. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium for storing a software program that, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method for automatically deleting one or more related delegate reply messages, the method comprising:
(a) transmitting an electronic mail message to at least one recipient;

(b) receiving a first delegate reply message provided in response to the electronic mail message;

(c) identifying a ~~related~~ second delegate reply message as being related to the first delegate reply message; and wherein each of the delegate reply messages are auto-reply messages responsive to the electronic mail message; and

(d) automatically deleting the ~~related~~ second delegate reply message on the basis of the identified relationship.

4. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium ~~program~~ product of claim 3, wherein ~~the method further comprises:~~

~~transmitting the electronic mail message to a plurality of recipients;~~

~~receiving a~~ the first delegate reply message is received from a first recipient of ~~from the plurality of recipients; and~~

~~receiving a~~ the second delegate reply message is received from a second recipient of ~~from the plurality of recipients.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium ~~program~~ product of claim ~~[[4]]~~3, wherein the electronic mail message is associated with a mail message identifier and wherein identifying the second delegate reply message as being related to the first delegate reply message comprises determining that the first and second delegate reply messages include the mail message identifier.

6. (Canceled) The computer program product of claim 5, wherein the first delegate reply message and the second delegate reply message are associated with the mail message identifier.

7. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium ~~program~~ product of claim ~~[[6]]~~3, wherein ~~the method further~~ identifying comprises comparing ~~the~~ a mail message identifier associated with the first delegate reply message to ~~the~~ a mail message identifier associated with the second delegate reply message and determining

that the mail message identifiers of the respective delegate reply messages are the same.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium ~~program product~~ of claim 7, wherein the mail message identifier comprises sender and timestamp information for the electronic mail message.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium ~~program product~~ of claim 7, wherein the mail message identifier comprises at least one of the identity of the sender of the electronic mail message, a date on which the electronic mail message was sent, a time at which the electronic mail message was sent, and an identity of the terminal from which the electronic mail message was sent.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium ~~program product~~ of claim 3, wherein the method further comprises receiving a selection to automatically delete related delegate reply messages.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium ~~program product~~ of claim ~~[[10]]~~3, ~~further comprising deleting the delegate reply message wherein the identifying and the automatically deleting are done in response to opening the first delegate reply message.~~

12. (Canceled) The computer program product of claim 3, wherein the method further comprises:
receiving an electronic message; and
determining whether the electronic message is a delegate reply message.

13. (Canceled) The computer program product of claim 3, wherein the method further comprises:

determining whether another of the at least one recipients, who were transmitted an electronic mail message (a), has sent a second delegate reply message in response to the electronic mail message.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim ~~[[3]]~~7, wherein automatically deleting the second delegate reply message is done in response to determining that the mail message identifier of the first delegate reply message is the same as the mail message identifier of the second delegate reply message. ~~the method further comprises:~~

~~deleting other delegate reply messages provided in response to the same sent electronic mail message if the other automatic delegate reply messages have substantially the same message identifier as the opened delegate reply message.~~

15. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium for storing a software program that, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method comprising:

~~receiving a delegate reply message provided automatically generated and sent by a recipient terminal in response to a sent an electronic mail message to at least one sent to the~~ recipient terminal;~~and~~

opening the delegate reply message;

deleting the opened delegate reply message; and

in response to deleting the opened delegate reply message:

identifying a mail message identifier of the opened delegate reply message; and

deleting other delegate reply messages provided in response to the same electronic mail message if the other delegate reply messages have the same mail message identifier as the opened delegate reply message.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 15, wherein deleting the opened delegate reply message is performed in response to

receiving a user command to close the opened delegate reply message. further comprising:

~~deleting other delegate reply messages provided in response to the same sent electronic mail message if the other automatic delegate reply messages have substantially the same message identifier as the opened delegate reply message.~~